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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 June to 22 July 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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# Annex

## Monthly report to the United Nations on the operation of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 June-22 July 2000), there were approximately 43,600 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) deployed in the theatre, with no major changes in deployment since the last report.

### Security

2. The situation in Kosovo remained tense over the period, with continuing ethnic violence and related crime against all groups, in particular Serbs and Roma. Kosovo Serb houses in Cernica (Multinational Brigade (MNB) (East)) were attacked by grenades at the end of June. There were no injuries. At the beginning of July there were mortar attacks against unoccupied Kosovo Serb houses near Velica Hoca (MNB (South)) which caused minor damage. The attacks led to roadblocks being set up by local Serb villagers, who subsequently stoned vehicles belonging to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) which were trying to enter the village. KFOR has given priority to countering these forms of criminal violence.

3. On 7 July, three Roma were injured in a grenade attack in the Roma village in northern Mitrovica (MNB (North)).

4. On 12 July, three Kosovo Serbs were shot and wounded near Klokot in MNB (East). Following the detention of a Kosovo Albanian for the shooting, approximately 150 protestors blocked a road and stoned UNMIK police and KFOR troops.

5. Two Orthodox churches were destroyed over the reporting period: one at Podgorce (MNB (East)) on 30 June, and a second at Pomazatin (MNB (Centre)) on 16 July.

6. The town of Mitrovica was the scene of several demonstrations by Kosovo Serbs over the reporting period. On 11 July, approximately 150 demonstrated in protest at the curfew imposed in the town. Following the detention by UNMIK police of a Kosovo Serb on 17 July, there was sporadic gunfire in the town, and an UNMIK policeman was taken hostage for a number of hours. Demonstrations were held outside the court building on 18 July, with Serbs demanding the release of the detainee. Roadblocks were erected in the northern part of Mitrovica, and stones were thrown at KFOR and UNMIK vehicles. KFOR troops increased their patrols and checkpoints, and the demonstrations eventually ended without incident. The detainee was later released, pending further formal judicial action.

7. Apart from some minor episodes of hostility directed at KFOR troops, most anti-KFOR actions took the form of demonstrations. Kosovo Albanians held several demonstrations against seizures of weapons by KFOR and the Force's alleged anti-Kosovo Albanian attitude.

8. Throughout the period, KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Among the weapons uncovered were pistols and ammunition in a warehouse in Orahovac (MNB (South)) at the end of June; an AK-47, hand grenades and ammunition in Drobnjak (MNB (East)) on 4 July; rifles, guns, grenades, a Serb police armoured vehicle and military clothing in several villages in MNB (North) on 5 July; and ammunition near the Slivovo Valley in MNB (Centre) on 9 July.

### Illegal border activity

9. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone remain closed. Over the reporting period, there were again a number of attempted illegal border crossings at the border crossing point of Morina South (MNB (South)). On 26 June, an Albanian was detained for trying to cross the border illegally from Kosovo into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] with a large number of shotgun ammunition components. On 18 July, three people were detained for attempting to illegally cross the border into Kosovo at Morina.

10. There were continued reports of paramilitary activities being conducted by the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac" in and around Dobrosin in the ground safety zone, including mortar

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

attacks as well as small arms against elements of the Ministry of the Interior Police, causing some casualties.

### Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

11. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, there have been no reported violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).

### Cooperation and compliance by the parties

12. The number of reported incidents of non-compliance and disciplinary offences by individual members of the Kosovo Protection Corps decreased during the month of July. However, the frequency of weapons violations and incidents involving threatening behaviour remain at a significant level. Recent discoveries of large arsenals in the Drenica Valley and the increased attention paid by KFOR to the activities of the Kosovo Protection Corps have also resulted in KFOR gaining delayed access to the Corps' camps on several occasions. Acts of non-compliance by the Kosovo Protection Corps have been most frequent in the MNB (West) area of operations, where, since mid-February, 53 out of a total of 164 non-compliance cases have been reported. Over the same period, MNB (South) reported 28 cases of non-compliance, MNB (North) 36 cases, MNB (Centre) 27 cases and MNB (East) 9 cases.

13. During the reporting period, members of the Kosovo Protection Corps in MNB (West) were involved in three major acts of non-compliance. The first involved a regional task group Commander's misuse of his position to intimidate an UNMIK employee. The second incident involved 15 members of the Corps interfering with a KFOR arrest operation, and the third involved a member of the Corps who was arrested on 5 July and charged with attempted murder. As a result, on 7 July, the Commander of KFOR called a special Joint Implementation Commission meeting with both KFOR and the Kosovo Protection Corps commanders, where he made clear that he expected greater cooperation from the Corps and that there would be tighter control of the regional task groups by MNB commanders.

14. On 25 June, the new structure of the regional task groups was finalized, and each now has the same strength (614), sub-units, job descriptions, proportion of active and reserve members and the same proportion of minorities. The Kosovo Protection Corps, in close cooperation with KFOR, is finalizing the new structures for the Corps headquarters and central units, with a projected completion date of mid-August.

15. The Army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain generally compliant with the terms of the military technical agreement and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

### Cooperation with international organizations

16. KFOR continued to provide assistance to the international and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, on request.

17. At 24 July, the UNMIK police force numbered 3,133, including 707 members of the special police unit. A further 156 police personnel have been assigned to work with the Kosovo Police School. Over the reporting period, the KFOR Commander issued KFOR directive 25, on cooperation with UNMIK police, aimed at ensuring maximum KFOR support to UNMIK police in the latter's efforts to stabilize the security situation and to reinforce public order in Kosovo. To achieve this goal, joint operations centres will be created at brigade and battle group level. KFOR will react immediately to protect UNMIK police and other international organizations when threatened. The KFOR Commander also established a number of permanent procedures designed to further enhance coordination and cooperation between KFOR and UNMIK police.

### Return of refugees and displaced persons

18. There were a total of 11,443 organized voluntary returns, primarily Kosovo Albanian, during the month of June. During the first six months of 2000 there were a total of 43,192 such returns.

### Outlook

19. Inter-ethnic tension will continue, the primary challenge for KFOR in the weeks and months ahead being to contain the violence and to defuse potential flashpoints. The situation is likely to be exacerbated by the increased number of returns expected during the summer months and by a possible increase in tension resulting from political rivalry in the run up to the municipal elections.